

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendment and the following remarks.

Entry of this Amendment is proper under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 since this Amendment: (a) places the application in condition for allowance for reasons discussed herein; (b) does not raise any new issue regarding further search and/or consideration since the Amendment amplifies issues previously discussed throughout prosecution; (c) does not present any additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally-rejected claims; and (d) places the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. The Amendment is necessary because it is made in reply to arguments raised in the rejection. Entry of the Amendment is thus respectfully requested.

By the foregoing amendment, claims 1, 10, 28, 37, 55 and 64 have been amended. Claims 2-4, 6-9, 11-13, 15-27, 29-31, 33-36, 38-40, 42-54, 56-58, 60-63, 65-67 and 72-81 have been withdrawn. No new matter has been added. Accordingly, claims 1, 5, 10, 14, 28, 32, 37, 41, 55, 59, 64 and 68 are currently pending in the application and subject to examination.

In the Office Action mailed May 17, 2006, claims 1, 10, 28 and 37 were rejected of under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Early et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,391,999, hereinafter "Early"). Claims 5, 14, 32, 41, 55, 59, 64 and 68 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kawabata (U.S. Patent No.

6,452,518) in view of Early. Claims 1, 10, 28, 37, 55 and 64 have been amended. To the extent they are still applicable, these rejections are respectfully traversed.

The Applicant respectfully submits that none of the applied art of record, nor combination thereof, discloses or suggests at least the combination of a buffer control circuit, wherein the buffer control circuit is a switch arranged between the output of said buffer circuit and a load device, as recited in independent claims 1, 10, 28, 37, 55 and 64, as amended.

For at least this reason, the Applicant submits that claims 1, 10, 28, 37, 55 and 64, as amended, are allowable over the applied art of record. As claims 1, 10, 28, 37, 55 and 64 are allowable, the Applicant submits that claims 5, 14, 32, 41, 59 and 68, which depend from allowable claims 1, 10, 28, 37, 55 and 64, respectively, are likewise allowable for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to claims 1, 10, 28, 37, 55 and 64.


Conclusion

For all of the above reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the claims now pending patentability distinguish the present invention from the cited references. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections and an issuance of a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner determine that any further action is necessary to place this application into better form, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned representative at the number listed below.

In the event this paper is not considered to be timely filed, the Applicants hereby petition for an appropriate extension of time. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency or credit any overpayment associated with this communication to Deposit Account No. 01-2300, referring to client-matter number 100021-00066.

Respectfully submitted,


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